

NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 321

Introduced by McDonald, 41; Aguilar, 35; Baker, 44; Bourne, 8; Combs, 32; Cunningham, 40; Flood, 19; Howard, 9; Johnson, 37; Kremer, 34; Kruse, 13; Price, 26; Smith, 48; Stuthman, 22; Synowiecki, 7

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the overall impact of Area Health Education Center (AHEC) programs on the health of the citizens of Nebraska through their mission of career awareness and recruitment and retention of medical professionals to underserved areas.

AHEC's are cooperative ventures between a medical school and community centers. They are administered in Nebraska by the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Nebraska has five AHEC's across the state. AHEC's partner with the Rural Health Education Network which is funded by the Legislature, but AHEC's are federally funded through Title VII of the Public Health Service Act for a maximum of twelve years. The twelve-year period for federal funding for Nebraska's AHEC's will begin to expire in September of 2007 and all AHEC's will be off of federal funding in September of 2011.

This study shall determine the importance of AHEC's in maintaining easily accessible health services in underserved areas of Nebraska, recruitment and training of health professionals, continuing education for health professionals, and partnerships

with other agencies with similar goals.

In addition, the study should determine whether AHEC services in Nebraska should be funded by the Legislature as federal funding expires.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.